



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**JULY 8, 2005**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **JURY CONVICTS PARKVILLE MAN FOR CHILD PORN**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Parkville, Mo., man was found guilty by a jury in federal court today for possessing child pornography and attempting to receive and distribute child pornography.

**Michael Shawn McCourt**, 20, of Parkville, was found guilty by a federal trial jury of four counts contained in a federal indictment that was returned by a federal grand jury on Dec. 15, 2004, in Kansas City.

Following the presentation of evidence in **McCourt's** trial, Graves said, the jury in U.S. District Court in Kansas City deliberated for about three hours before returning the guilty verdict to U.S. District Judge Gary A. Fenner this afternoon, ending a trial that began on July 5, 2005.

The federal jury convicted **McCourt** of attempting to distribute child pornography over the Internet between June 7 and 10, 2003; attempting to receive child pornography over the Internet on two separate occasions, between June 7 and 10, 2004, and between July 7 and Aug. 4, 2003, respectively; and possessing child pornography on Aug. 8, 2003.

The offense and related conduct involved at least 300 visual depictions of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct. At least one of the visual depictions involved a minor under the age of 12 and at least one visual depiction portrayed sadistic and masochistic and violent conduct.

During the course of the trial, evidence showed that **McCourt** operated a file-sharing system in an Internet chat room under than name #100%PreeTeenGirlSexPics that was dedicated to the trading of child pornography. Law enforcement officers learned of the site, obtained access to **McCourt's** directory of files and downloaded a sampling of files, most of which were suggestive of child pornography, Graves said. The Internet address for the files was later traced to **McCourt's** home address.

Following the download, law enforcement conducted a search of **McCourt's** residence on Aug. 8, 2003.

Under federal statutes, **McCourt** may be subject to a mandatory minimum of five years in federal prison without parole, up to 70 years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$1 million.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Katherine Fincham. The case was investigated by the Platte County, Mo., Sheriff's Department, the Heart of America Regional Computer Forensics Laboratory, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Rockhill, N.Y., Sheriff's Department.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

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